

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Action of April 20, 2006 (hereinafter "Office Action").

Applicants especially appreciate the indication that Claims 3, 4, 6 - 10, 13, 14, and 16 - 20 recite patentable subject matter. In response Applicants submit that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest, at least, all of the recitations of the pending independent claims; therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of all pending claims is respectfully requested for at least the reasons discussed hereafter.

Independent Claims 1 and 11 are Patentable

Independent Claims 1 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 5,450,365 to Adachi (hereinafter "Adachi") in view of Japanese Patent No. JP404271673 to Kaneko (hereinafter "Kaneko"). Independent Claim 1 is directed to a memory interface system and recites:

at least one channel line that couples a memory to a memory controller, the at least one channel line being responsive to a terminal voltage that is independent of a memory supply voltage and a memory controller supply voltage.

Independent Claim 11 includes similar recitations. As illustrated in FIG. 1, for example, of the present Specification, a memory interface system is shown in which the terminal voltage VTER is independent of the memory supply voltage VDD1 and the memory controller supply voltage VDD2. The Office Action alleges that Adachi discloses all recitations of independent Claims 1 and 11 except a battery power supply for the memory card 14. Kaneko is cited for the proposition that the memory card 14 can be independently powered. (Office Action, page 4).

Applicants respectfully disagree with this interpretation of the teachings of Adachi. In particular, Applicants submit that the voltage powering the channel lines 122 and 124 is not independent of the supply voltage for the memory card 14. In fact, Applicants submit that the voltage powering the channel lines 122 and 124 is dependent on the supply voltage that powers the memory card 14 in that these voltages will always be the same. Adachi explains this dependence as follows:

The memory card control device 16 having the above construction will be operated as follows. To begin with, assume that a memory card 14 whose rated supply voltage is 5 volts is mounted on the camera 1 via the connector 12. **On detecting a supply voltage matching the memory card 14, the switch 26 is brought into a condition opposite the condition shown in the FIGURE; that is, the 5-volt connection line 130 is connected to the connection line 120 via the switch 26.** As a result, the supply voltage of 5 volts is applied to the input 120 of the level shifter 20 via the switch 26. (Adachi, col. 4, line 65 – col. 5, line 7).

Thus, according to Adachi, even if the memory card 14 supply voltage is independent of the voltage used to power the channel lines 122 and 124, the voltage used to power the channel lines 122 and 124 is not independent of the memory card 14 supply voltage. Instead, the memory card control device 16 detects the supply voltage for the memory card 14 and uses that same voltage to power the channel lines 122 and 124.

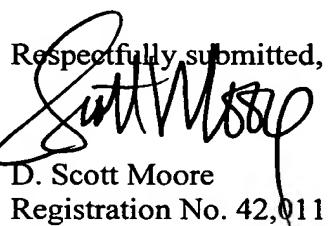
In response to this argument, the Office Action cites Kaneko as disclosing a memory card 50 having a battery as an independent power supply. (Office Action, page 2). Applicants agree that Kaneko discloses a memory card with a battery as an independent power supply, but as explained above, Applicants submit that even if the memory card 14 supply voltage is independent of the voltage used to power the channel lines 122 and 124, the voltage used to power the channel lines 122 and 124 is not independent of the memory card 14 supply voltage. The design of Adachi is based on the the memory card control device 16 detecting the power supply voltage for the memory card 14 and then using that voltage to power the channel lines 122 and 124. If Adachi and Kaneko are combined, the memory card control device 16 would detect the battery power supply in the memory card 14 as taught by Kaneko and use that battery voltage to power the channel lines 122 and 124.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submits that independent Claims 1 and 11 are patentable over Adachi in view of Kaneko and that Claims 2 – 10 and 12 - 20 are patentable at least per the patentability of independent Claims 1 and 11.

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CONCLUSION

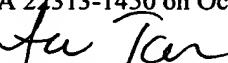
In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-entitled application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Scott Moore
Registration No. 42,011

USPTO Customer No. 20792
Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec
Post Office Box 37428
Raleigh, North Carolina 27627
Telephone: 919/854-1400
Facsimile: 919/854-1401

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 20, 2006.


Amelia Tauchen